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DU in Iraq

`a War Crime Beyond Compare'

By Michael Collins Piper

Speaking from the perspective of a physician, Dr. Helen Caldicott candidly expressed her view that Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld — one of the cheerleaders for war — is "clearly a sociopath. He lies constantly and does it in a quite charming way." In fact, she says, there is a distinct "ideology and psychology" among those promoting war against Iran.

Dr. Caldicott says that "a radical change must take place in the psyches of the world leaders and their public," or otherwise "our present path will lead us to annihilation possibly within 20 years but maybe within 10 years."

There is no time to waste, she says. "Wise leaders must arise who will lead us from the brink of nuclear suicide and who will instigate the dynamics necessary to stop the blind and unconscious rush to mutually assured destruction." There are 30,000 nuclear weapons in the world today, and America and the Russians have 97% of them.

HELEN CALDICOTT

. . .Right now, Dr. Caldicott notes, there is what must be called a "nuclear war" being conducted by the United States against Iraq. She has seen firsthand the results of the use of the exposure to uranium 238 used by the United States in conventional weapons that have been deployed in the two wars against Iraq. The uranium is highly carcinogenic. It is spread through dust storms. It gets deposited in human bone. In Basra, Iraq there has been a 700% increase in cancer among children. There has likewise been a 700% increase in congenital anomalies in Iraqi newborns: children born without brains, with no arms, with single eyes or no eyes at all.

"America is contaminating the cradle of civilization for ever more. This is a war crime beyond compare. This is genocide," said Dr. Caldicott. "This is a nuclear war."

Even now there still remain unexploded American "cluster bombs" lying across the sands of Iraq and Afghanistan. So further tragedies are to come.

However, when Dr. Caldicott has tried to bring this message to the mass media, she has found that the media chooses to suppress these facts. "We're unable to publish this," she was told by ***The New York Times***. To their credit, Dr. Caldicott pointed out, British and Australian newspapers have published the information that her Nuclear Policy Research Institute has brought forth, but American newspapers will not.

And now, she said, there are those neo-conservatives in the Bush administration who have been talking about using nuclear weapons in Iran against the Iranian nuclear facilities at Natanz and Isfahan. If just three bombs each were lobbed at those installations, nuclear fallout would spread into Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, and radioactivity would spread downwind, due to global air currents, as far into Southeast Asia as Malaysia. All told, one million people could die or be injured from the initial blasts. Some 2.6 million people would soon be dead from radiation. Another 10.5 million would be exposed to radiation and to the subsequent dangers facing both the victims and their unborn children. There are simply not enough medical facilities to handle the consequences.

The intended attack on Iran, said Dr. Caldicott, is an "incredible international crime" which could result in further international upheavals. For example, she asked, is it possible that the Russians could get nervous and become further engaged in a conflict with their Chechen rebels? Could other nuclear blasts be in the offing? The end result would be nuclear winter and "the end of life on Earth, the end of creation." This, she said, is "the most serious crisis the Earth has ever faced," and since "the American people are determining the fate of the Earth, America's leaders need tough love," and need to be brought under control.

"The United States is the world's bully," she said, "And we are all enablers to America's bullying. Bullies must be disciplined."

HELEN CALDICOTT, a native of Australia who has spent much time in the United States, is a pediatrician by profession but she has won international acclaim for her outspoken efforts to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The author of five books, including Nuclear Madness and The New Nuclear Danger: George Bush's Military Industrial Complex, she was a co-founder of Physicians for Social Responsibility and is the founder of the STAR (Standing for Truth About Radiation) Foundation as well as the Nuclear Policy Research Institute.

A journalist specializing in media critique, Michael Collins Piper is the author of ***Final Judgment***, the controversial "underground bestseller" documenting the collaboration of Israeli intelligence in the assassination of John F. Kennedy. He is also the author of ***The High Priests of War***, ***The New Jerusalem***, ***The Judas Goats***, and ***Dirty Secrets***, all available from First Amendment Books and America First Books. He has lectured on suppressed topics in places as diverse as Malaysia, Japan, Canada, Russia and Abu Dhabi.

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